H# 0065-0259

mp tw LPC:EUR(5/85) H: Murray

P850080-2294

24 1985 MAY

DELETE Non-

) DECLASSIFY ) DECLASSIFY IN PART

Only

Date:

10 (S:

3

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for your inquiry of April 26 on behalf of concerning Raoul Wallenberg.

The President, the Department of State, and Congress share a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. The U.S. Government takes every opportunity to make this concern known to the Soviet authorities.

Reflecting U.S. interest in this case, President Reagan signed into law in October 1983 a bill conferring honorary U.S. citizenship upon Paoul Wallenberg. Honoring Mr. Wallenberg in this fashion was an important symbolic act. It has made the Soviets and the rest of the world aware of our great admiration for his courage and dedication to humanity. In addition, it stressed our abhorrence for his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Government.

To emphasize further our dedication to resolve the mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate, we raised his case with the Soviets through diplomatic channels after he was made age honorary citizen. To date, the Soviets have not responded. However, our efforts to resolve the tragic mystery of ಠ Mr. Wallenberg's fate will continue until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of chair တတ actions in his case. 97 or

We have pressed our efforts both in bilateral meetings and international forums, such as the Conference on Security OAD and internation in Europe (CSCE) Review Meeting in Madrid AAD at 1982, the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission urged the Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gusture which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rece; or else in the best of all possible outcomes, sesuit in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the

The Bonorable Charles E. Bennett, House of Representativ

59

BG



heroes of our time." At a February 1983 session of the Commission, the U.S. Alternate Representative again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits." He suggested the U.N. Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case.

We continue to work closely with the Swedish Government to investigate reports alleging that Mr. Wallenberg might still be alive. Thus far, we have been unable to substantiate this information. Nevertheless, we will maintain a cooperative effort with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to seek information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

On January 17, 1985, President Reagan issued a statement to mark the fortieth anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance and to commemorate "his heroic deeds in saving thousands of Hungarian Jews." In his statement, the President said, "We will continue to insist that the Soviet Union has a moral obligation to answer, once and for all, the questions we have about his fate."

Sincerely,

William L. Ball, III
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

